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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-08 SIL-01 LAB-04 L-03 H-01
PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ABF-01
OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 COME-00 /065 W
----------023901 161919Z /53
R 161837Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4292
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 00902

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ILO, ELAB, EEC
SUBJ: BLANCHARD VISIT TO BRUSSELS

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. FRANCIS BLANCHARD, ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL, WAS BUSY IN BRUSSELS JANUARY 10-12 IN A SERIES OF MEETINGS IN WHICH HE REVIEWED THE ILO CRISIS. HE MET TOP OFFICIALS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES--DANISH LABOR MINISTER SVEND AUKEN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DANISH PRESIDENCY OF THE EC COUNCIL; COMMISSION PRESIDENT ROY JENKINS, VICE PRESIDENT HENK VREDELING, AND COMMISSIONER CLAUDE CHEYSSON; AND SECRETARY GENERAL DELFO DELFINI AND DIRECTOR GENERAL ROGER LOUET OF THE EC ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE. HE ALSO CONFERRED WITH BELGIAN LABOR MINISTER GUY SPITAELS AND WITH THE SECRETARIATS OF LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU), THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (WCL), AND THE EUROPEAN
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TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC), AS WELL AS THE UNION OF INDUSTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (UNICE), AN EMPLOYERS' GROUP.

2. MUCH OF THE DISCUSSIONS DEALT WITH ILO FINANCES, ALTHOUGH THIS WAS NOT CLEARLY STATED IN ANY OF THE PRESS RELEASES ON THE VISITS. BLANCHARD AND AUKEN HAD A "WIDE

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RANGING EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON PROBLEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST... PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE UNITED STATES LEAVING THE ILO," SAID AN EC COUNCIL PRESS RELEASE. IT ADDED THAT AUKEN ASSURED BLANCHARD THAT THE "DANISH PRESIDENCY WOULD SPARE NO EFFORT IN ITS SEARCH FOR THE MOST SUITABLE FORMS OF ASSISTANCE TO THE ILO TO ENABLE IT TO IMPLEMENT ITS PROGRAMS UNDER THE BEST POSSIBLE CONDITIONS..."

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL:

3. ACCORDING TO AN EC COUNCIL SECRETARIAT SOURCE WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN BLANCHARD AND AUKEN, BLANCHARD MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

--HE WAS VERY IMPRESSED WITH POSITIVE WORLDWIDE RESPONSE TO THE ILO CRISIS. AFTER CUTTING ITS BUDGET, THE ILO STILL HAD A $5 MILLION ANNUAL DEFICIT, BUT COMMITMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE COVERING $3 MILLION OF THAT GAP.

--THE NORDIC AND BENELUX COUNTRIES ARE ALL PLANNING TO INCREASE THEIR ILO CONTRIBUTIONN,AND FRANCE MAY DO SO ALSO, THOUGH BY A SMALLER AMOUNT. BLANCHARD WILL BE VISITING THE GERMANS AND THE BRITISH SOON TO SEE WHAT THEY CAN DO.

--SUCH CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ONLY EMERGENCY IN NATURE; THEY CONFIDENTIAL

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ARE NOT MEANT TO CREATE A SITUATION WHERE IT IS ASSUMED THE U.S. WILL STAY OUT OF THE ILO. THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR U.S. MEMBERSHIP.

--THE NINE COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY SHOULD ACT TOGETHER ON ILO QUESTIONS; THEIR UNITY IS ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT IN THE ABSENCE OF THE U.S., PARTICULARLY IN DEALING WITH CONTROVERSIAL QUESTIONS ON REFORM OF ILO STRUCTURES.

4. AT A LUNCHEON BLANCHARD AND AUKEN TALKED AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT THE ILO'S STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS, BUT THIS DISCUSSION OCCURRED OUTSIDE THE HEARING OF OUR SECRETARIAT SOURCE. AFTERWARD, AUKEN TOLD A REPORTER OF EUROPE, BRUSSELS DAILY NEWSLETTER, THAT HE FAVORED LARGER REPRE-SENTATION FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON THE ILO GOVERNING BODY, AND THAT HE WOULD URGE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES TO APPROVE THAT REFORM. ON THIS QUESTION, OUR SECRETARIAT SOURCE SAID THAT AUKEN WAS REFLECTING HIS PERSONAL VIEWS, NOT THE POSITION OF THE EC NINE.

5. A SOURCE AT THE ICFTU SAID THAT BLANCHARD COVERED

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THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS IN HIS DISCUSSIONS AT
ICFTU HEADQUARTERS:

--THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT IS AT THIS TIME RELUCTANT TO COME
FORWARD WITH A SIGNIFICANT SUPPLEMENTARY CONTRIBUTION,
AND ARGUES THAT THE WEST SHOULD NOT CARRY THE BURDEN
ALONE--THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES MUST ALSO DO THEIR SHARE.
BLANCHARD'S REACTION IS THAT IT MIGHT BE A MISTAKE TO ASK
THE COMMUNISTS FOR MORE MONEY SINCE THEY WOULD TRADE IT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 00902

FOR MORE INFLUENCE.

--ILO OFFICERS HAVE FOUND A WAY TO KEEP THE U.S.
GOVERNMENT SEAT (BUT NOT WORKER AND EMPLOYER SEATS) VACANT
ON THE GOVERNING BODY FOR A LIMITED PERIOD IN HOPES THAT
THE U.S. WILL RETURN.

--THE ILO GOVERNING BODY SESSION NEXT MONTH WILL PROBABLY
DISCUSS A PROPOSAL TO REAPPOINT BLANCHARD FOR A NEW FIVE-
YEAR TERM STARTING THIS YEAR RATHER THAN NEXT YEAR.
CASE BEING MADE FOR THIS PROPOSAL BY ILO CHAIRMAN JOE
MORRIS, AMONG OTHERS, IS THAT IN PRESENT CRISIS THE ILO
CANNOT ENDURE A LONG-DRAWN OUT ELECTION CAMPAIGN, THAT
IT WOULD BE BEST TO SETTLE ISSUE SOON, AND BY NOT
CHANGING HORSES IN MID-STREAM.

6. RAYMOND GOOSE, ILO REPRESENTATIVE HERE, REPORTS THAT
THE OVERALL MOOD THAT BLANCHARD ENCOUNTERED HERE WAS ONE

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OF DETERMINATION TO KEEP THE ILO FUNCTIONING AND TO DO
EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO FACILITATE THE U.S. RETURN. HINTON

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